

Bird Information, Research and Data Highlights

July, August, September 2020



From left to right: The renovated Milbrey Warner Waller Library & Sandy Bivens Bird Education Center. Volunteer Jean Louise Barnes assists Heather Gallagher with hummingbird banding. The MAPS team completes its 30th year! BIRD Summer Intern Perri Haga from Lipscomb University assists with banding Barn Swallow nestlings at the Steeplechase Barn.



From left to right: Our first Life Tag transmitter attached to a Swainson's Thrush for the Motus research project. A young hatch-year male Ruby-throated Hummingbird just getting in his red gorget throat feathers. Seven day old Barn Swallow nestlings just banded at the Steeplechase Barn. Sandy Bivens holding a male Kentucky Warbler recaptured during a MAPS session—this bird is 5 years old!



From left to right: Naturalist Kim Bailey about to release a recently banded Ovenbird during our Fall Migration research project. Sandy Bivens, Elizabeth Cook, and Kim Bailey conduct annual Tennessee Ornithological Society Fall Migration Bird Count. Volunteer Steve Ghertner and The Nature Conservancy's Cory Holliday assist Laura with the first dual receiver in TN at the WPNC! Volunteer Kathy Shaw searches for thrushes with Life Tag transmitters using a CTT Locator near the banding station.

Thank you for your continued support of the BIRD Program which is fully funded by Friends of Warner Parks.

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Bird Information, Research and Data (B.I.R.D.) Quarterly Report

July, August, September 2020

Warner Park Nature Center, Friends of Warner Parks, and Metro Parks and Recreation

BIRD Program

- Our dedicated volunteers contributed 613 hours during 145 visits. Despite no official in-person programs, we still engaged 129 park visitors during research and 1993 during the Virtual Hummingbird Celebration. Total 2,122 visitors.
- Volunteer Jordan Jurnisky has made progress on our long-term bird banding data set. Additionally, interns and volunteers have entered 14 years of recapture data into an electronic format—25 more years to go!
- We have secured funding through Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to have the Institute for Bird Populations analyze and draft a report on 30 years of MAPS research.
- For the first time in 38 years, we cancelled the Spring Migration Banding Project due to Covid Phase 1 restrictions.
- Our first ever Virtual Hummingbird Celebration on 27 August was a huge success with over 1400 participants/views! A special thank you Heather Gallagher, Rachel Anderson, and FOWP for making this happen. A huge thank you to the many friends who contributed their time and knowledge: John Carreau, Cynthia Routledge, Sandy Bivens, Fred & Brandee Moore, Mike Berkley, Terri Barnes, Jean Louise Barnes, Margie Hunter, Samantha Olivares– Mejia, Graham Gerdeman, Jamie Bacon, Elie Haislit, John Clifton, and Katie Buchholtz.
- Because we could not hold our annual Hummingbird Happy Hour, the BIRD Program's most significant fundraiser of the year, we paired it with the Virtual Hummingbird Celebration & raised over \$9,000. A very special thank you to Betty Krogman who hand made beautiful hummingbird masks for the event!
- Thanks to Ben Armistead, on 09 July we opened the Sandy Bivens Bird Garden; designed by Tara Armistead with a beautiful water feature by Chris Agee, a variety of bird feeding stations, and plants native to Warner Parks.
- After a year of construction, the Milbrey Warner Waller Library & Sandy Bivens Bird Education Classroom opened on 21 July thanks to a generous donation from Susan O'Neill. We look forward to welcoming students and visitors soon.
- Laura contributed to Brentwood Library and FYI Naturalist program webinar series on what you can do to help birds.
- Attended the virtual Midwest Migration Network Conference as well as the North American Ornithological Conference.

BIRD Research Projects

- **Eastern Bluebird Nest Box Project:** Launched in 1936 by Amelia Lasky. The all-volunteer team (Kim Bailey, Cathy Barker, Sandy Bivens, the Cook family, John Kell, & Sue Shallow) completed the season with a delayed start. The first egg was laid on 21 Mar. We missed the first clutch but had 54 nests, 18 of which were predated, banded 79 young, & 2 adults, and 13 adult recaptures. Fledge from egg success rate 52%. A special thank you to Diana McLusky for coordinating this project.
- **Hummingbird Migration Project:** Twenty-two banding sessions were held for this multi-park project from late July-mid September with a total 154 hummingbirds captured. Heather Gallagher led the WPNC project with volunteers Jean Louis Barnes, Camille Monohan, Matt Jenkins, and Leah LaRocco with 72 banded and 3 recaptures. Laura led the Bells Bend with 31 banded and 2 recaptures. John Kell led Shelby Bottoms with 21 banded and 2 recaptures. Sandy Bivens led Beaman Park with 19 banded and 2 recaptures.
- **Purple Martin Nesting Project:** On-going since 2000, this year was a very productive year with 11 out of the 12 gourds with nests—the most ever documented at the nature center. Project lead Heather Gallagher monitored the nests from May-July, observing over 30 adult birds and banding 46 of the young nestlings. A special thank you to Graham Gerdeman for his assistance and photography skills.
- **Barn Swallow Project:** Our 3rd annual park-wide survey on 24 June found 64 active nests with 50 eggs and 12 nestlings. Perri Haga, our summer BIRD intern from Lipscomb University researched nest survivorship and assisted with banding 56 Barn Swallow nestlings from 15 nests at the Steeplechase.
- **MAPS:** Monitoring Avian Productivity & Survivorship is a continent-wide research program in partnership with the Institute for Bird Populations. **This year is our 30th season!** We started a month later due to Covid, but our social-distancing, mask-wearing sessions were a success capturing 65 birds of 18 species, 16 of those were recaptures including a Kentucky Warbler first banded in April 2017 as a Second-year male—so at least 5 years old! A special thank you to Kathy Shaw & Sandy Bivens for coordinating this project.
- **Motus:** Thanks to volunteer Steve Ghertner, we installed the first dual-receiver Motus station in TN in July. As part of a study on site fidelity (returning to the same area) and migratory stop-over (days spent here during migration) to understand the role of urban parks for birds, we have placed solar LifeTag transmitters on thrushes.
- **TOS Fall Bird Count:** On 26 September, Sandy Bivens, Kathy Shaw, Laura & Elizabeth Cook, Rachel Anderson, Heather Gallagher, & Kim Bailey conducted the Warner Park interior loop for the fall Tennessee Ornithological Society bird count. It was a good day with 48 species. The highlight was a Black-throated Blue Warbler—a very rare migrant in our area.